

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An introduction system for allowing an introduction origin system to introduce an introduction target system to an introduction destination system  
5 through an on-line network system,

the introduction origin system comprising an introducing part for notifying the introduction destination system of "introducing" information containing user entry information of the introduction target system,

10 the introduction destination system comprising a registering part for receiving the "introducing" information notified from the introducing part of the introduction origin system and registering user entry information of the introduction target system on a user list, and an "introduced" information notifying part for detecting registration of the user entry information of the introduction target system on the user list in the registering part and  
15 notifying the introduction target system of "introduced" information representing that a registration action based on introduction has been conducted, and

the introduction target system comprising an "introduced" recognizing part for receiving "introduced" information from the "introduced" information  
20 notifying part of the introduction destination system and recognizing a registration action to the user list in the introduction destination system.

2. An introduction system according to claim 1, wherein the user list is a buddy list,

25 a buddy list system is configured between the introduction destination system and the introduction target system, based on registration of a user entry of the introduction target system to the buddy list of the introduction destination system,

30 the introduction target system notifies the introduction destination system of state information representing a state of the introduction target system through a network, and

the introduction destination system obtains the state information of

the introduction target system through the network and refers to it.

3. An introduction system according to claim 1, wherein the introducing part of the introduction origin system has a function of notifying the introduction target system that an “introducing” action has been conducted, and

the introduction target system further comprises an “introducing” recognizing part for receiving “introducing” information notified from the introducing part of the introduction origin system and recognizing the “introducing” action in the introduction origin system based on the “introducing” information, and an “introduction” confirming part for comparing contents recognized by the “introduced” recognizing part with contents recognized by the “introducing” recognizing part, and confirming an introduction relationship between the introduction origin system and the introduction destination system.

4. An introduction system according to claim 2, wherein the introducing part of the introduction origin system has a function of notifying the introduction target system that an “introducing” action has been conducted, and

the introduction target system further comprises an “introducing” recognizing part for receiving “introducing” information notified from the introducing part of the introduction origin system and recognizing the “introducing” action in the introduction origin system based on the “introducing” information, and an “introduction” confirming part for comparing contents recognized by the “introduced” recognizing part with contents recognized by the “introducing” recognizing part, and confirming an introduction relationship between the introduction origin system and the introduction destination system.

5. An introduction system according to claim 1, wherein the introduction target system is a service provider, and

the introduction target system includes an incentive providing part for giving an incentive to change conditions for providing service with respect to

either one or both of the introduction origin system and the introduction destination system, in a case where the “introduced” recognizing part recognizes an introduction relationship between the introduction origin system and the introduction destination system.

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6. An introduction system according to claim 2, wherein the introduction target system is a service provider, and

the introduction target system includes an incentive providing part for giving an incentive to change conditions for providing service with respect to either one or both of the introduction origin system and the introduction destination system, in a case where the “introduced” recognizing part recognizes an introduction relationship between the introduction origin system and the introduction destination system.

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7. An introduction system according to claim 3, wherein the introduction target system is a service provider, and

the introduction target system includes an incentive providing part for giving an incentive to change conditions for providing service with respect to either one or both of the introduction origin system and the introduction destination system, in a case where the “introduced” recognizing part recognizes an introduction relationship between the introduction origin system and the introduction destination system.

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8. An introduction system according to claim 3, wherein the introduction target system is a service provider, and

the introduction target system includes an incentive providing part for giving an incentive to change conditions for providing service with respect to either one or both of the introduction origin system and the introduction destination system, in a case where the “introduction” confirming part confirms an introduction relationship between the introduction origin system and the introduction destination system.

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9. An introduction system according to claim 5, wherein the introduction target system includes an incentive notifying part for notifying the introduction origin system or the introduction destination system of contents of an incentive given by the incentive providing part based on a past  
5 “introducing” action and registration action or contents of an incentive to be provided by the incentive providing part based a future introduction relationship.

10. An introduction system according to claim 6, wherein the introduction target system includes an incentive notifying part for notifying the introduction origin system or the introduction destination system of contents of an incentive given by the incentive providing part based on a past  
10 “introducing” action and registration action or contents of an incentive to be provided by the incentive providing part based a future introduction relationship.

11. An introduction system according to claim 7, wherein the introduction target system includes an incentive notifying part for notifying the introduction origin system or the introduction destination system of contents of an incentive given by the incentive providing part based on a past  
20 “introducing” action and registration action or contents of an incentive to be provided by the incentive providing part based a future introduction relationship.

12. An introduction system according to claim 8, wherein the introduction target system includes an incentive notifying part for notifying the introduction origin system or the introduction destination system of contents of an incentive given by the incentive providing part based on a past  
25 “introducing” action and registration action or contents of an incentive to be provided by the incentive providing part based a future introduction relationship.

13. An introduction system according to claim 1, wherein in a registering part of the introduction destination system, in a case where the entry information of the introduction target system is deleted from the user list or the introduction destination system is not used by a user any more, recognition or  
5 confirmation of the introduction relationship between the introduction origin system and the introduction target system is cancelled.

14. An introduction system according to claim 2, wherein in a registering part of the introduction destination system, in a case where the entry information of the introduction target system is deleted from the user list or the  
10 introduction destination system is not used by a user any more, recognition or confirmation of the introduction relationship between the introduction origin system and the introduction target system is cancelled.

15. An introduction system according to claim 3, wherein in a registering part of the introduction destination system, in a case where the entry information of the introduction target system is deleted from the user list or the introduction destination system is not used by a user any more, recognition or  
15 confirmation of the introduction relationship between the introduction origin system and the introduction target system is cancelled.

16. An introduction system according to claim 5, wherein in a registering part of the introduction destination system, in a case where the entry information of the introduction target system is deleted from the user list or the  
25 introduction destination system is not used by a user any more, recognition or confirmation of the introduction relationship between the introduction origin system and the introduction target system is cancelled.

17. An introduction system according to claim 8, wherein in a registering part of the introduction destination system, in a case where the entry information of the introduction target system is deleted from the user list or the  
30 introduction destination system is not used by a user any more, recognition or

confirmation of the introduction relationship between the introduction origin system and the introduction target system is cancelled.

18. A method for supporting introduction, comprising:

- 5            displaying a plurality of reference users stored so as to be associated with users on a display apparatus in accordance with a request from a user;  
             detecting that one of the plurality of displayed reference users is selected and virtually moved to a display region of another reference user, and sending “introducing” information for introducing the another reference user  
10          to the selected reference user; and  
             accumulating introduction relationship information containing the user, the selected reference user, and the another reference user.

19. A method for allowing an introduction origin system to introduce an introduction target system to an introduction destination system through an on-line network system,

- 15            wherein the introduction origin system notifies the introduction destination system of “introducing” information containing user entry information of the introduction target system,  
20            the introduction destination system receives “introducing” information notified from the introduction origin system and registers user entry information of the introduction target system on a user list,  
             the introduction destination system detects registration of the user entry information of the introduction target system in a buddy list to the user  
25          list, and notifies the introduction target system of “introduced” information representing that the registration action has been conducted, and  
             the introduction target system receives “introduced” information notified from the introduction destination system, and recognizes the registration action to the user list in the introduction destination system,  
30          based on the “introduced” information.

20. A program comprising processing operations for configuring an

introduction system for allowing an introduction origin system to introduce an introduction target system to an introduction destination system through an on-line network system,

- 5 a processing program of an introduction origin system including an “introducing” processing operation of notifying the introduction destination system of “introducing” information containing user entry information of the introduction target system,

- 10 the processing program of the introduction destination system including a registration processing operation of receiving “introducing” information notified in the “introducing” processing operations of the processing program of the introduction origin system and registering the user entry information of the introduction target system on a user list, and a registration action notification processing operation of detecting registration of the user entry information of the introduction target system to the user list in the registration processing operation, and notifying the introduction target system of “introduced” information representing that the registration action has been conducted, and

- 20 a processing program of the introduction target system including a registration recognition processing operation of receiving the “introduced” information notified in the registration action notification processing operation of the processing program of the introduction destination system, and recognizing the registration action to the user list in the introduction destination system based on the “introduced” information.